

Meeting Date: November 6, 2008

Agenda Item No. 14

Agenda Item: Wolf Management/Research Update

Approved by: _____

Prepared by: Brad Compton for Jim Unsworth, George Pauley, Craig White

Background:

In 2004, the Department initiated a large field effort to estimate the impact of gray wolves on elk populations by intensively monitoring survival and cause-specific mortality in representative populations across the state.

In March 2008, Northern Rocky Mountain gray wolves were delisted and returned to state management authority. In July 2008, a federal judge issued an injunction against the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service decision to delist the Northern Rocky Mountain gray wolf, remanding wolf management back under federal regulations.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Current authorities for management of gray wolves in Idaho are provided through the Endangered Species Act and the 10(j) rule (revised in 2008) for nonessential-experimental gray wolf populations.

Public Involvement Process:

None.

Staff Recommendation:

None. This agenda item is to provide an update to the Commission on field investigations of elk population status, survival, and cause-specific mortality. Additionally, gray wolf management under existing federal regulations will be discussed.

Justification:

Information only.